

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:158
ANSWERED ON:26.11.2007
ENHANCEMENT IN POSTAL TECHNOLOGY
Acharia Shri Basudeb

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken initiatives to use the huge network of postal department in the country for other business purposes;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has examined the need for streamlining the operation of postal department in the country; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the details of the plans to invest funds for technology upgradation across the postal network to compete with the private sector?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE LOK SABHA IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) to (d) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 158 FOR 26TH NOVEMBER, 2007 REGARDING ENHANCEMENT IN POSTAL TECHNOLOGY.

(a) Yes, Sir. The Department of Posts is providing various services other than postal services in collaboration with other Government and non Government agencies to optimally utilize the network.

(b) These services are broadly as below:

I. The Department has started a pilot to provide financial inclusion in rural areas under the scheme of Business Correspondent in collaboration with the State Bank of India.

II. A Pilot for extending disbursement of micro credit to self help groups has also been started in collaboration with the National Bank for Agricultural and Rural Development.

III. The Department has started Passenger Reservation Service in collaboration with the Ministry of Railways.

IV. The Department is providing a platform to facilitate payment of various bills by the customers for telecommunication companies and other utility service providers.

V. The Department is distributing financial instruments like Mutual Funds etc. on behalf of financial institutions like UTI, SBI, Franklin Templeton, Reliance Mutual Funds etc. The Department is also distributing the Non Life products of Oriental Insurance Company Ltd.

VI. The Department provides the facility of receiving remittances from 205 countries through the International Money Transfer Service.

VII. The disbursement of wages to the beneficiaries of the National Rural Employment Guarantee (NREG) Act 2005, is done through the post offices in some states.

VIII. The payment of Old Age Pension under the National Social Assistance Programme is being undertaken by the Department of Posts in some states.

(c) & (d) The Department of Posts has brought focus on business activities by strengthening mail business products and introducing new services in collaboration with various agencies. Setting up of Business Development and Marketing Directorate, Mail Business Centres, Rural Business Desk, Global Business Division and Logistics Post Centres is a step in this direction. The Department is consistently inducting technology in postal operations to upgrade postal services. Under the 10th Plan 8263 post offices have been computerized. During the 11th Plan the remaining 17,598 departmental post offices and 64,000 branch post offices are proposed to be computerized. During the 11th Plan, an expenditure of approx Rs. 559 Crores has been made for computerization and networking of post offices. During the 11th Plan, it is estimated that approximately Rs. 2100 Crores will be invested for computerization and networking of post offices.

